ISASC

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

Chairman's Newsletter

Number 22. April, 1984.

SCALE COLLECTORS OF THE WORLD UNITE.

It's about to happen this May 18-20 in Chicago, at ISASC's Sixth International Convention. Reservations have been coming in at a rapid pace, and at the moment the registration count is more than 60. However, we've still room for more, and we're enclosing the program and reservation form to facilitate anyone's last-minute decision to join us. If you're so inclined, please make sure you send us the full registration fee.

As to our convention plans, everything's coming along just fine. Joel Malter tells us the auction catalog will be sent to all registrants well in advance of the convention dates. The seminar program, too, is in its final planning stage, and will feature Bill Doniger, whose scale collection is one of the finest, speaking on unusual U.S. scales, Tod Carley on the subject of patents -- how to search for them and use them to expand one's knowledge, and Joel Malter on the fine points of collecting ancient weights. A fourth talk will be given by me on Tiffany scales, their history and diversity. All in all, the convention promises to be the highlight of ISASC's year, although we were disappointed to learn that the Crawforths have been obliged to cancel their visit. Michael wrote us to express his deep regrets and explain that what with the unexpected pressures brought on by his change in jobs and move to Oxford, he and Diana simply cannot make it. We'll miss them, for certain, but understand their plight.

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MEMBERSHIP BONUS.

Enclosed with this mailing is a copy of an article written by Michael Crawforth on Grain-Testing Scales, which recently appeared in an English magazine. There seems to be no limit to Michael's storehouse of knowledge, and this article should make an excellent addition to one's metrology library. Thank you, Michael.

M-O-M (MORE ON MICHAEL).

In our previous mailing we described Michael's Handbook of Old Weighing Instruments and provided an order card, which subsequently resulted in the sale of more than 60 copies, with orders still coming in. What we did not describe was yet another of his publications, the first of a series of three monographs on sovereign balances. This one is titled Standard Rockers, and is the last item, described in detail, on the January 1, 1984, library list sent to members earlier this year. The cost is a trifling $6, and an order card is enclosed. Need we say more?

DIRECTORY UPDATE.

Enclosed is the 1984 membership directory, which is to replace last year's in the permanent index cover already provided you. This year's directory lists 274 members, although earlier this year our enrollment stood at 293. However, sad to say, as of April 6 (our printing deadline), a considerable number of members had not paid their 1984 dues, leaving us no choice but to suspend them. This entails deleting their names from the directory and removing them from our mailing list. In trying to avoid this action, we've sent each a delinquent notice and also phoned those in the U.S.

If and when they pay their dues, we'll reinstate them, although it should be noted that this delinquency problem creates hours on end of extra administrative work that is an unnecessary (and unfair) hardship on those of us who serve ISASC in a voluntary capacity. (There, that's off my chest.)

On the lighter side of things, you'll be interested to note that Israel has joined the list of worldwide countries with ISASC members, and not with just one but two. On the other hand, Italy is no longer on our roster of member countries, as Francesco Castellano has moved from Milan to Tallahassee, Florida.

For statistics buffs, the directory reveals that about two-thirds of our members reside in the U.S., with California alone accounting for more than 40! (What is there about that state that attracts scale collectors?) Among the countries other than the U.S., England is the frontrunner with almost 30 members, with Germany hard on its heels.

TEMPUS FUGIT...

and we're having real trouble finding the tempus to complete the EQM Index we've been promising you. Diana Crawforth, as you may recall our telling you, compiled the Index covering the first five years of EQM, and we've managed to enter about half of it into our word-processor. Then we received (with mixed emotions) the sixth year's index from Diana, which has to be correlated with the original. However worthwhile a project it is (and none of us feels to the contrary), it's a time-consuming job to an inordinate degree, as after it's entered on the word processor, it has to be proofread and edited, prepared for reproduction, printed and collated. Then, and only then, will it be ready for mailing, and our latest guess is that the mailing date will be either this summer or fall. The root of the problem is that whatever time is available these days for conducting ISASC's affairs is taken up with a dozen-and-one administrative functions that a continually growing membership has brought to a degree we never would have dreamed of.

MUNZEN AUKTION ESSEN...

which is to say that auctioneer-member Karla Schenck-Behrens is conducting an auction of money scales, weights, etc. in Essen, Germany, on May 23rd, similar to excellent ones she held in 1982 and 1983. A catalog is available (text in German), at a cost of 30

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deutschmarks in Europe and 40 DM (airmail) in all other countries. Send your order and remittance to Karla W. Schenk-Behrens, 4300 Essen, Moltkeplatz 23, West Germany.

ASHANTI COLLECTION FOR SALE.

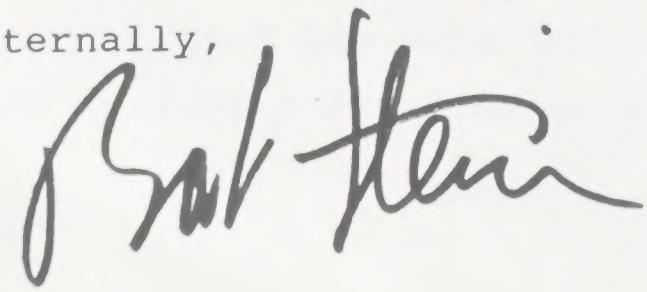
A few weeks ago we received a letter from Serge Prevost, 2 Balzac, Candiac, Quebec J5R 2A6, Canada, informing us that he is interested in disposing of his collection of African Ashanti gold weights (1,200 in all). He goes on to say that "These proverbial and geometric weights, some real big, served for the payment of Income Taxes, in the African Tradition. They all have historical records and are very well described (...in French).

He refers to his asking price as a "bargain" in which our members would be interested. If you're into Ashanti weights, we can only suggest you contact Mr. Prevost post haste.

"PAPER MEMORABILIA RELATED TO SCALES"...

is the way Henry Raab describes assorted items he's offering for sale, including "trade cards, bills, stamped envelopes, letter-heads, prospectus and Harper's Weekly, price lists and booklets," all of which carry illustrations. Various manufacturers are represented, with the material dating from 1855 to 1899. Mr. Raab appears willing to provide a detailed list, photocopies of the material, and selling prices to interested parties, and can be reached at 10 Shore Blvd, Manhattan Beach, New York, NY 11235; phone 212/648-7570 or 212/691-3618.

AND THAT, DEAR FRIENDS,

as the New York Times puts it, is "All the news that's fit to print." I'm looking forward to meeting a number of you in Chicago soon, and the next Chairman's Newsletter will carry a full report on our convention.

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